

Maurice Hinchey NEWS

26TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, NEW YORK

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HINCHEY BLASTS BUDGET PLAN PASSED BY HOUSE

WASHINGTON - U.S. Representative Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today voted against the Budget Resolution for FY 2002 Conference Report, citing its heavy emphasis on an irresponsible and inequitable tax cut that is so large that it eliminates important funding for education, health care, and veterans programs and endangers the Social Security and Medicare Trust Funds. Hinchey also decried the unfair treatment New York State receives from this budget plan.

The Conference Report, which is meant to resolve differences between the House and Senate versions of the budget resolution, passed the House today by a 221-207 margin over the opposition of Hinchey and most House Democrats.

Following the vote, Hinchey offered the following comments:

"The centerpiece of the budget resolution passed by the House today is a massive tax cut that will result in a raid on the Social Security and Medicare trust funds and sharply diminished funding for programs that most Americans feel strongly about. The benefits of this cut will go primarily to the wealthy. Sixty percent of the benefit in New York will be received by the richest one percent of New Yorkers. Meanwhile, 36 percent of New York families with children will receive no benefit whatsoever.

"Moreover, New Yorkers do not receive their fair share of the tax cut in the first place. New York ranks 49th among the 50 states in average income tax cut under this proposal, nearly 18 percent below the average for the rest of the country in the \$44,000 to \$72,000 income range, and almost 53 percent below the average in the \$72,000 to \$147,000 category. New Yorkers pay more than 8.5 percent of the federal income tax, but would receive less than seven percent of the tax cut. So the gap in New York's balance of payments deficit widens under this plan.

"Once we include this tax cut that helps out wealthy people in other parts of the country, we don't have anything left to adequately fund veterans programs, health programs, real improvements in education, a prescription drug benefit for Medicare beneficiaries, or countless other efforts that should be high priorities.

"This budget is bad for the country, bad for New York and bad for the people of the 26th Congressional District."

